

*[English]***Canal from Sankosh River**

3273. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for construction of canal from Sankosh river to Ganges in West Bengal has been received for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether clearance to the said proposal has been accorded; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of Canal from Sankosh river to Ganges in West Bengal as a part of Sankosh project was considered. It was decided that since survey and investigation themselves could cause disturbance to the environment, the Ministry of Environment and Forests will make assessment with a multi-disciplinary team. After the multi-disciplinary team submits its Report, a decision on survey and investigation will be taken. As such, no proposal for environment clearance has been received.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Minority Commission in Andhra Pradesh

3274. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to states:

(a) whether concurrence of the Union Government about the Andhra Pradesh Minority Commission is still withheld;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Concurrence has already been given to the introduction of Andhra Pradesh Minorities Commission Bill, 1996 subject to the decision with regard to the definition of "minority" in the 11 member Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Disrespect to National Flag

3275. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pepsi Cola has insulted the National Flag in an advertisement during Pepsi Independence Cricket series;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

(c) whether any case has been filed against the company under Prevention of Discretion of National Emblem and Monument Act, 1971; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) There is no enactment called Prevention of Discretion of National Emblem and Monument Act, 1971.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Allocation of Fund to Agricultural Universities

3276. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government encourage the Agriculture Universities in the research works to evolve the hybrids of various crops as well as economic and eco-friendly technologies;

(b) if so, the accomplishments made in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated to each of the Agriculture Universities for this purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following achievements have been made:—

1. The hybrid developed and recommended during last three years in different crops are given in Statement-I enclosed.
2. In Rice after China, India is the only country to commercialise hybrid rice which presently covers about 60,000 hectares area.
3. Hybrid Seed Production technologies of 9 crops (rice, maize sorghum, pearl-millet, sunflower, rapeseed mustard, castor, pigeonpea and cotton) have been developed and recommendations were made for effective seed production.

(c) The funds specifically and exclusively allocated for the purpose under the project on Promotion of Research and Development Efforts on Hybrids in Selected Crops and UNDP funded Hybrid Rice project are given in Statement-II enclosed.